

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SSM-03 IO-13 MCT-01 SY-05 ACDA-07 A-01 OPR-02 DHA-02
AID-05 SCA-01 COME-00 /104 W
-----012059 091812 /63

R 011320Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0631
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0154

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, EG, LY
SUBJECT: LIBYAN TERRORISM RESUMES

REF: 76 ALEXANDRIA 0354

1. BOMB BLAST IN LOWER-CLASS MORRIS HOTEL ON ALEXANDRIA'S
CENTRAL TAHRIR SQUARE FEBRUARY 26 HAS BEEN BLAMED BY EGYPTIAN
SECURITY OFFICIALS AND WIDELY PUBLICIZED BY PRESS AS "RENEWED
LIBYAN TERRORISM" AGAINST EGYPT. ACCORDING TO SENIOR LOCAL
SECURITY SOURCE, AND SPELLED OUT BY PRESS, PERPETRATOR OF ATTACK
WHICH INJURED NINE, WAS EGYPTIAN IN PAY OF LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE.

2. TIME BOMB PLANTED WITH TEN HOUR DELAY EXPLODED ABOUT 2030
HOURS LOCAL. PRESS ACCOUNTS FEBRUARY 28, CLAIMED ONE NAGY ABDO
SOLEIMAN WAS ARRESTED IN MERSA MATROUH (NEAR LIBYAN BORDER 200
MILES WEST OF ALEXANDRIA) "TEN MINUTES AFTER EXPLOSION IN
ALEXANDRIA". WE FIND ARREST WAS MORE NEARLY FIVE HOURS AFTER
INCIDENT, AND ALTHOUGH OUR SOURCES ARE PERHAPS DELIBERATELY
VAGUE ON INVESTIGATIVE METHODS WHICH ACHIEVED EVEN THAT RAPID A
SOLUTION TO CRIME, WE BELIEVE IT WAS MATTER OF ROAD-BLOCKING COASTAL
HIGHWAY AND INTERROGATING EVERY LIBYAN FOUND PROCEEDING TOWARDS
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BORDER THAT SNARED ALLEGED CULPRIT. WE ARE TOLD THAT HE AND
HIRED DRIVER WERE "TIRED" AFTER TRIP FROM ALEXANDRIA AND DECIDED
TO REST OVERNIGHT AT HOTEL IN MATROUH WHERE NAGY WAS CAPTURED.

3. PRESS REPORTS OF FEBURARY 28 SPELLED OUT ALLEGED PLOT. NAGY
HAD GONE TO LIBYA IN APRIL 1976 SEEKING WORK AND WAS RECRUITED BY
LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE. NAMED AS RECRUITERS WERE LT. IDRIS EL SHERIF

AND CAPT. MESBAH EL AMMOURY. THEREAFTER TRAINED IN USE OF EXPLOSIVES, NAGY WAS TAKEN TO EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN BORDER BY ONE ABDUL AZIZ MAKHI UN (ALSO LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER) WHO PROVIDED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AND TWO HUNDRED EGYPTIAN POUNDS (FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS) WITH PROMISE OF ANOTHER ONE THOUSAND POUNDS ON RETURN. NAGY CLAIMED HE WAS ORDERED TO PLANT BOMB "IN ANY EGYPTIAN HOTEL OR ON ANY EGYPTIAN RAILROAD".

4. COMMENT: OUR EGYPTIAN SECURITY CONTACTS POINT TO THIS EVENT AS PROBABLE EVIDENCE OF RENEWAL OF LIBYAN ANTI-EGYPTIAN TERRORIST ACTIVITY. BUT THEIR EVASIVENESS ON DETAILS AND RAPIDITY WITH WHICH LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE HIRED HAND WAS APPREHENDED LEAVE US, AND SOME OTHER LOCAL OBSERVERS INCLUDING FOREIGNERS AND LOCAL NEWSMEN, A LITTLE DUBIOUS. AS REPORTED REFTEL, RASH OF BOMBINGS IN EARLY JULY OF JQOUYN ALL WITHOUT CASUALTIES, WAS THOUGHT BY SOME AS EGYPTIAN-INSPIRED TO PROVIDE ANTI-LIBYAN PROPAGANDA. WHILE THIS NEWEST ONE ALLEGEDLY HAD NINE PERSONS SLIGHTLY INJURED, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ADD "ACCORDING TO POLICE". BOMB ON TRAIN LATER IN JULY WAS DEADLY. WE COULD BE WRONG IN DOWNGRADING THIS ONE. CHASE

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